

6-13-03 367.41081X00

367.41081X00 PAT 01001 US (NC 25273)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

HUTCHINSON, et al.

RECEIVED

Application No.:

10/043,109

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Filed:

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For:

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Group Art Unit:

Unassigned

Examiner:

Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

May 7, 2003

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration. A courtesy copy of a European Search Report dated April 25, 2003 is attached hereto.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

To the extent the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)

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for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by the discussion of these documents in the specification.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (367.41081X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments DES:nbf